

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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Vol. 41, No. 36

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, September 13, 2002

Handy at AF ball

By Lt. Col. Ed MEMI
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Mobility Command's top general reflected on the anniversary of Sept. 11 as the guest speaker for the Air Force Ball at the North Charleston Convention Center Saturday.

Gen. John Handy, U.S. Transportation Command and AMC commander, traveled from Scott AFB, Ill., to attend the ball and meet with base airmen, retirees and local civic leaders. About 900 people attended the ball, which celebrated the 55th anniversary of an independent Air Force.

During the ball, Handy presented Lt. Col. Steve Groenheims, 14th Airlift Squadron commander, and Capt. Joseph Grindrod, 14 AS pilot and 2001 Company Grade Officer of the Year, with the Gen. Joseph Smith trophy for best airlift squad-

ron in the command.

Handy said he was thrilled to speak at the Air Force ball.

After concluding a moving story about a McGuire AFB, N.J., reservist and firefighter who was working near the twin towers, Handy said that today he had a chance to hug his granddaughter, but said many will not because of what happened Sept. 11.

"If I reflect back on Sept. 11, we all know, without being reminded, that almost 3,000 people were killed," said Handy. "Nearly 2,000 children lost a parent that morning. No matter where we all come from, we're locked in this fight and we'll prevail."

Handy again praised Team Charleston's action in the war on terrorism.

"I can't thank you enough for what you do for our nation," he concluded.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Day of remembrance

Lindsay Dalbey, niece of Col. Russell DeLuca, 437th Operations Group deputy commander, participates in the Sept. 11 Moment of Silence Ceremony at the base flagstaff Wednesday. Dalbey's father was in the Pentagon Sept. 11 and survived the attack.

DOD restarting modified anthrax vaccines for deployments

By Army Sgt. 1st Class KATHLEEN RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Defense Department officials announced recently they are restarting a modified Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program now that the vaccine provider has passed Food and Drug Administration scrutiny.

Only servicemembers, essential civilians and contract employees going to, or serving in, high-threat areas will receive the vaccine, said Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, assistant defense secretary for health affairs.

This is because half the contractor's vaccine production will be stockpiled for civilian use.

"We recognize there is a domestic need for access to the vaccine," Winkenwerder said. "In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Homeland Security, we are reserving a portion of the anthrax vaccine for stockpiling ... to use in the event of a domestic emergency."

Capt. David Newman, 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron Public Health Flight chief, said as soon as the Air Force releases imple-

mentation guidance for the anthrax vaccine, Team Charleston members deploying to high-risk areas could expect to start receiving anthrax shots 45 days before they deploy.

"The reason members get shots 45 days out is (Air Force officials) want the member to get three vaccines (if they have not had any anthrax shots) before they are in the high-risk area," said Newman. "Personnel who have previously received the vaccine will resume vaccinations where they left off and are not expected to restart the shot

series."

"You want to have time to build up immunity," Newman continued. "The anthrax vaccine is going to give you the best round-the-clock protection."

The vaccination schedule consists of six doses, at day one, two weeks, four weeks, six months, 12 months and 18 months with an annual booster.

In 1998, the DOD began a plan to vaccinate all military members against the deadly, potential bio-

See ANTHRAX, page 15

COMMENTARY

Air Force Ball huge success, new vision announced

By COL. BROOKS BASH
437 AW COMMANDER

The Air Force Ball was a huge success. Thanks to **Capt. Bill Reynolds**, 437th Medical Group, our outstanding Protocol and Public Affairs staffs and everyone who served on the committee. Our goal of having fun in a safe, relaxed atmosphere was met. The event was well-received by everyone, and many stayed late into the evening - a good sign people were enjoying themselves!

Gen. John Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, was overwhelmed with the spirit and attendance of our folks. This spirit was exemplified by the groups, squadrons and private organizations that provided free or reduced ticket prices for many junior airmen. We look forward to another great event at next year's Air Force Ball.

We pause this week to remember the victims of the terrorist attacks. The attack is an event that we will never forget. We continue to serve our nation as we move forward in the fight against terrorism. Again, one more stark reminder of this continuing war was when we moved to Force Protection Condition Bravo on Tuesday.

We held a moment of silence Wednesday at the Base Chapel and flagpole. There were also many off-base ceremonies, and our honor guard, as always, was in high demand. They always do an outstanding job of representing us in the local community.

One of the documents distinguishing our nation from others is the Declaration of Independence. About 40 Team Charleston members and I had a unique opportunity to participate in the opening ceremonies Wednesday for a traveling road exhibit, displaying an original copy of this historic document. The Declaration of Independence is available for public viewing, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Old Exchange Building through Thursday, Sept. 19.

Preparing ourselves for accidents and disasters, we held a major accident response exercise Tuesday. The MARE is a great way to refine our procedures, especially communications, ensuring rapid and proper response to any accident, large or small. The time to prepare is now, before an accident occurs.

We wrapped up the Year of the Warrior Spirit at the base theater Tuesday. During this event, we reviewed our accomplishments for the fiscal year. Air Mobility Command lauded our program as "best in the command." I presented the Warrior Cup Spirit Award to the 437th Support Group. The cup competition was based on the entire year's events. Points were awarded for participation and event winners. The Chaplain's office rated each group's motivation and attitude during all events. It was a close race with great participation from each group.

I presented AMC YOWS coins to the following individuals: **Capt Jason Renter**, 14th Airlift Squadron; **Master Sgt. Daniel Moran**, 437th Operations Support Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Jeremy Davis**, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Daniel Small**, 437 AGS; and **Staff Sgt. Mark Kenyon**, 1st Combat Camera Squadron.

The YOWS coins are presented to those personnel who embody the concept of warriors, promoting competition, camaraderie and heritage among personnel.

Charleston AFB senior leadership developed a bold new mission statement, vision and goals for the wing. Our new vision is: *Charleston warriors: simply the best at providing agile combat support for America.* The mission statement: *dedicated professionals working together to support, train and deliver world-class airlift from our nation's premier Air Force base.*

We have three significant goals for the wing. First, *safety first: everyday, everywhere, every mission - balancing risk with operational necessity.* Second, *warrior spirit: everyone, everyday - anticipating and preparing for future missions.* Third, *family: our foundation - military and personal - supporting each other - inseparable in the fight.*

Closely aligned with this new vision, we are looking to establish a new wing motto. The motto must capture key ingredients of the vision, mission and goals. We will hold a contest, offering prizes to the winning entry. We will provide more details next week.

On the horizon, **Col. William Bender** will assume command of the 437th Operations Group next Thursday at the Charleston Club at 3:30 p.m. **Col. Russell DeLuca**, acting commander, 437 OG, will become the director, operations management, Directorate of Operations, Headquarters AMC. Please welcome Col. Bender and his family to Team Charleston.

Continue to stay safe and have a wonderful weekend!

Action Line: Questions about special leave accrual to be answered soon

Q: I'm trying to get good information about use or lose leave. Since Oct. 1, I have been deployed about 140 days. According to the Air Force Instruction 36-3003, if a member is deployed more than 60 days, they are entitled to special leave accrual. At the same time, the instruction also has criteria for SLA not being approved. I fit both criteria. This whole thing is somewhat confusing and there seems to be too many interpretations about

what's what out there. A lot of us are in this situation and don't want to lose our leave, nor can most of us be absent from work due to mission requirements. Thanks for any guidance that can be given.

A: Thank you for your inquiry concerning special leave accrual. I have personally raised this issue with Headquarters Air Mobility Command

numerous times since I have arrived at Charleston. Because your deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom was more than 60 days, you are entitled to apply for SLA. The additional deployments and your training TDY do not fall under the SLA authorization. Because many AF personnel are in the same situation, the secretary of the Air Force will issue a policy for SLA. We

have not yet received the final guidance regarding those procedures and will release the information as soon as we can. Please don't hesitate to ask for assistance from your commander's support staff or the Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Function at 963-4539.

**--Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander**

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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IN THE NEWS

Reorganization

Combat Wing reorganization affects processes, not jobs; facilitates wing's future role

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 437th Airlift Wing is set to undergo major reorganization later this month.

The reorganization ceremony will take place Sept. 27, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club.

Although many squadrons are changing their names or realigning under different groups, many airmen won't see a change, said Lt. Col. Vic Sowers, 437th Support Group deputy commander.

"For the most part, there will not be any significant impact," said Sowers. "Some airmen will change squadron or unit designations, but their roles and missions in the squadron will not change."

"Really, the new organizational structure provides the Air Force a more effective and efficient mechanism to train, equip and re-deploy our forces," continued Sowers.

Combining two squadrons and two extra flights from other squadrons into one squadron, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron, may seem like a big deal, but Chief Master Sgt. Russ Meador, 437th Transportation Squadron Vehicle Maintenance manager, said there will be little change in job respon-

- 437th Logistics Group will become 437th Maintenance Group
- 437th Support Group will change to 437th Mission Support Group
- 437th Aerial Port Squadron and 437th Contracting Squadron will move from their current groups and into 437 MSG
- 437th Logistics Support Squadron will become 437th Maintenance Operations Squadron
- 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron will become 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- 437th Supply Squadron, 437th Transportation Squadron, 437 LSS Logistics Plan Flight and 437 APS Traffic Management Flight will realign into 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron under 437 MSG

sibilities.

"As far as it goes for enlisted people, everyone will come to work and still do pretty much the same job," said Meador. "Just now we have to think LRS. It's a bigger picture now."

First Lt. Iven King, 437 TRANS Vehicle Operations Flight commander, said with the many workcenters merging under the 437 LRS, jobs may not change, but how people think may have to change.

"With all of the flights merging, we say nothing will really change," said King. "But, we're coming under one paradigm with things like policy. The so-called supply way of life, the so-called TRANS way of life ... it's all merging. And the transi-

tion period may be rough on some people."

For many enlisted members the transition will be seamless, said Meador.

"For TRANS, there's no change in career progression," said Meador. "Everything should just stay the same. If I were a senior airman driver or mechanic, I don't think I would see any change."

King said although there's no change for enlisted, officers in the transportation and supply career fields would see a change. Other officer career fields will also be affected.

"For officers, supply and TRANS will become one career field," said King. "We'll have to spread ourselves thin."

Capt. Jason Nulton, 437 Supply Squadron Combat Operations Flight commander and future Readiness Flight commander, said the reorganization will also change the way deployment lines are handled.

"The base deployment function will all be under one flight," said Nulton. "The Unit Control Center (where records are kept), the mobility bag function and logistic plans (central point where every mobility tasking from Air Mobility Command comes from) will all be in the same location when the new supply warehouse is completed. It'll be one-stop shopping."

Nulton also agrees that most airmen will not see a change.

"If you are an airman in a shop, your job will most likely not change," said Nulton. "In most cases, your location will not change either. Your flight may change, your (chain of command) may change and your hat may change, but that's about it. It's really a management and structure change."

King said the change may present initial problems, but they shouldn't last.

"Initially, the road will be a little bumpy, but we'll move on and it'll be smooth driving from there out," he said.

August Yard of the Month winners announced

*Chief of
housing facility
selects winners
for main base
and Hunley
Park*



(Left to right) Kim Adler, Kaitlin Adler, Kristen Adler and Tech Sgt. William Adler, 437th Operations Group, work on the garden of their front yard in main base housing.



Dawn Curtis and Airman 1st Class Billy Curtis, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, pick weeds from their front yard in Hunley Park. The family won Yard of the Month honors for August.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Staff is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Allison Bethea today, 10 a.m., at the Community Education Center Ballroom. For more information, call Master Sgt. Chris Bidmead at 963-5594.

Change of command: Col. William Bender will assume command of the 437th Operation Group from Col. Russell DeLuca in a ceremony Thursday, 3:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Maj. Michael Bettner at 963-2852.

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Staff is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Larry Wallace Sept. 20, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 963-8013.

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Richard Williams Sept. 24, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Master

Sgt. Paul Childers at 963-4652.

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Stephen Dent Sept. 27, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Paul Childers at 963-4652.

Around the base

Golf Tournament: The Charleston chapter of the Air Force Association is sponsoring a golf tournament today, 1 p.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The cost is \$15 plus green and cart fees. Sign up by calling Capt. Jeffrey Baltes at 963-3252, or Master Sgt. Janet Osborne at 963-4190, or by stopping by the golf course pro shop.

Stepfamilies: The Family Advocacy Program is offering a five-session Strengthening Your Stepfamily Class beginning Monday. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

Chiefs: The Chief's Group will hold their monthly meeting Thurs-

day, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club.

OSA: Officers' Spouses' Association will host a free Special Activities Coffee and a welcome for Mary Beth Bash Sept. 24, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The event is open to all officers' spouses.

Healthcare: The Healthcare Consumers Council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 26, 2 p.m., at the base theater. The meeting is open to anyone eligible for military health care. For more information, call 963-6710.

Fashion Show: The African American Heritage Council will host A Night in Fashion Part III Sept. 27, 7-11 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Admission will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For tickets or more information, contact 1st Lt. Iven King at 963-5436, or Tech. Sgt. Denese Bellamy at 963-2262.

Marriage: The Family Advocacy Program will offer a marriage enrichment class starting Oct. 1, 6-

8:30 p.m., and running for six consecutive Tuesdays. Classes are free for base personnel and spouses. To register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

NAHM: Volunteers are needed to help plan Native American Heritage Month events for November. The committee will meet every Tuesday in September, 11:30 a.m., at Wings Café in the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Dan Stipanuk at 963-4675.

New number: The Community Education Center has added an additional phone line at the customer service desk. The new number is 963-7201.

Retirees: The Retiree Activities Program is creating an e-mail distribution list for retirees, their spouses, widows and widowers. Those interested in being added to the list should send an e-mail to raymond.borelli@charleston.af.mil.

Retiree council: The Retiree Activities Office is looking for retired military members to serve on the Air Force Retiree Council. A term on the council usually lasts four years. For more information, call retired Col. Raymond Borelli at 963-2228.

Family Support Center

Sip 'n Chat: Monday, 6:30 p.m.

TAP Three-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Women and Self-Esteem: Wednesday, noon-1:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Investing for beginners: Sept. 20, 8:30-10 a.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Sept. 23, 10-11 a.m.

Resume II: Sept. 24, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Smooth Move: Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Couples Communication: Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.

All workshops are held at the Family Support Center unless otherwise noted. For more information, or to register for any of the programs, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Airman Stephanie Hammer

Debbie Ross 437th Services Squadron

Debbie Ross is the director at the 437th Services Squadron Child Development Center.

"My job is making sure we have quality developmental programs for children here at Charleston AFB," said Ross, "but, I'm a child advocate first."

Ross, married to a retired senior master sergeant and mother of a 25-year-old son, has been here since 1994. Ross also served as the director of the CDC here from 1989-1991 before transferring overseas.

"I came into the (childcare) field when I dropped my son off at the base childcare about 23 years ago and saw a need," said Ross.

A Brooklyn, N.Y., native, Ross set out to be a teacher. She received a degree in Elementary Education from Morris College, S.C., before turning her attention to childcare.

Ross says her favorite part of the job is the children and the staff.

"(The CDC) is not just mediocre," said Ross. "It's a quality program and I say that very dearly. The theory we all operate under is to meet the same common goal: not to be mediocre. We want to be the best we can be for children because that's what they deserve."

Most importantly, Ross expresses her "love for children" and is "glad to have found Air Force childcare."

NEWS

Halvorsen lifts loads off APS: Air Force's 100th Halvorsen loader added to inventory, 'dream to drive,' says one operator

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIRMAN
STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Charleston AFB received the Air Force's 100th Halvorsen loader Sept. 6., increasing CAFB's inventory to seven.

The Halvorsen, a rapidly-deployable aircraft loader, will eventually replace all of the Air Force's 25,000-pound capacity loaders, according to an Air Force news brief.

The Halvorsen can reach a height of approximately 18 feet, where the old loaders could only reach a maximum height of approximately 13 feet, according to Staff Sgt. Jason Harms, 437th Aerial Port Squadron airfreight training NCO.

"Basically, we use it to facilitate the movement of cargo to the aircraft," said Harms.

The 31,350-pound Halvorsen can transport a 25,000-pound load of cargo at a maximum speed of 17 mph and has a powered conveyer system to help move cargo.

"The biggest asset the Halvorsen has to offer is the ability to transform it from operational, pallet-carrying mode to transport mode in about 10 minutes," said Harms.

"The engineering that went behind it really doesn't hinder move ability or visibility," continued Harms. "It's a dream to operate and drive."

CAFB received its first Halvorsen in January, according to Harms, and since then it has been the loader of choice.

"We still have a few of the (old loaders)," said Harms, "but with these new ones, if we can help it, we try not to use the other ones. It literally takes 10 percent of the time (to break down a Halvorsen for transport) than it did before. It's a truly, truly amazing vehicle."

"It use to take a three-man team anywhere from eight-10 hours to get (the old loader) ready for mobility movement," continued Harms. "(The old loader) is real limited as far as mobility goes and with which airplanes it could reach."

In order to operate the Halvorsen, Harms said new drivers undergo a three-day course, while drivers of the old loaders participated in a one-day class.

"It's awesome," said Airman 1st Class O'Neil Walters, 437 APS ramp services, who has been driving the Halvorsen since April. "It's easy to

break down. It takes less than 10 minutes with three people who know what they're doing."

Even the transportation squadron has seen a workload relief when it comes to maintaining the Halvorsen.

"It's a much better loader," said Tech. Sgt. James McNeil, 437th Transportation Squadron NCOIC of material and handling. "It's still new, but so far, it's been a lot easier to maintain because we've had a lot less problems."

"It's been pretty much trouble free because APS can prep the loader without tools," continued McNeil. "With the old loaders, the majority of the damage was caused by operators using tools to prep the loader (for mobility)."

The Halvorsen Loaders are named after retired Col. Gail Halvorsen. The "Candy Bomber" was honored for his efforts in "Operation Little Vittles" where he airdropped candy from planes to the children of Berlin during the Berlin Airlift.

"I can really, really appreciate (the Halvorsen)," said Harms. "It makes our lives a lot easier."

(Information from <http://www.konnections.com/airlift/candy.htm> was used in this article)



Airman 1st Class O'Neil Walters, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, extends a Halvorsen loader to an "awesome" 18 feet.

Deploying airmen can save time, efforts by planning legal affairs ahead

BY CAPT. BRUCE PAGE
437 AW LEGAL OFFICE

Many Charleston AFB members have heard the words, "we are an expeditionary Air Force."

Besides reminding airmen of deployments and the resulting time away from home, these words can also prompt thoughts of the many small details that go into making the expeditionary Air Force vision a practical reality.

One of the details that too many airmen overlook is taking care of important personal legal matters before a deployment, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Watson, 437th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate.

"The 437th Airlift Wing

Legal Office wants to ensure that when a Team Charleston member deploys, his or her ability to perform the mission is not limited by wills that should have been written, landlord issues that should have been settled, powers of attorney that should have been granted or any other legal matter that may distract from the task at hand."

Recently the legal office has experienced an upturn in the number of members requesting wills and powers of attorney either one to two days prior to, or even during, a mobility processing line. Watson explained that though his staff will meet all deploying members' legal needs, it is better to avoid situations like these

by good advanced planning.

"While our office is committed to getting (wills and powers of attorney) accomplished, such a short time frame requires an intense commitment of manpower at a time when our legal personnel are committed to other mission requirements," said Watson. "These legal matters should not routinely be done on the line when we can perform the same service at the legal office."

"In my view, the calm and confidential setting of the base legal office is a much better environment for this than a mobility processing line," continued Watson. "Of course, there will still be the rare instance when emergency legal assistance

is necessary on the mobility line. Generally speaking, though, it is far better for the member, and for us, to take care of these matters early."

The ability to plan ahead for deployments is actually the whole point of the Air Expeditionary Force construct. In a recent "Chief's Sight Picture," Gen. John Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, said that the AEF process "needs to be the focus of our daily operational business. . . . That means when the 90-day vulnerability window begins, the people in that particular AEF force package are trained, packed, administered, and are either deploying or sitting by the phone expecting to be de-

ployed."

Part of being "administered" is having all legal matters settled early and correctly so that airmen can do the deployed mission with piece of mind, knowing that things are as they should be back home, said Watson.

The base legal office has walk-in legal assistance available to all ID card holders Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., and Thursdays, 8-11 a.m.

Besides drafting wills and powers of attorneys, legal personnel advise clients on a variety of legal issues, ranging from consumer issues to family law to landlord-tenant relations.

For more information, or to set up an appointment, call 963-5502.

Captain promotion list out

*Charleston AFB lieutenants to double bars soon
Air Force releases names of promotees*

The following Charleston AFB lieutenants have been selected to be promoted to the rank of captain:

1st Combat Camera Squadron

Frasier, Dennison; Shadle, Martin; Strickland, Jennifer

14th Airlift Squadron

Adams, Paul; Anaya, Sergio; Arieff, Eric; Bippert, Eric; Brancato, Matthew; Churchill, Stephen; Cotton, Mark; Delay, Henry; Ellis, Kari; Foster, Timothy; Howard, James; Orfe, Ryan; O'Rourke, Joseph; Riley, Scott; Strickland, Kenneth

15th Airlift Squadron

Adams, Wesley; Brown, David; Bucheit, Eric; Carlson, Kirsten; Daugherty, Kelly; Gerhardt, Richard; Lutman, Miguel; Morales, Michael; Polomsky, Charles; Summers, James; Vanslyke, Richard

16th Airlift Squadron

Holladay, Aaron; Jonsson, Benjamin; Provencio, Caleb

17th Airlift Squadron

Allain, Jonathan; Boston, Aaron; Burkhalter, Spencer; Calhoun, Jonmichael; Dickson, Douglas; Dulaney, Jill; Farrell, Patrick; Ford, Angelo; Friar, William; Hofer, Lance; Lasher, Henry; Ludwick, Aaron; Matthews, Shayne; McKearin, Tobin; Montague, Erin; Noland, Samuel; Paquette, Denis; Phillips, Molly; Raser, Jacob; Scott, Christopher; Severe, Kevin; Smith, Chad; Walsh, Adam

437th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Cornelius, James

437th Mission Support Squadron

Fisher, Clint

437th Operations Support Squadron

Dobbels, Lisa; Ellis, Mark; Schmidt, Christopher; Wisniewski, Michael; Wood, Jared

437th Services Squadron

McGrew, Carrie

YOWS closes with award

By AIRMAN 1st CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Year of the Warrior Spirit came to an end Tuesday after a final briefing at the base theater.

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, declared the 437th Support Group the Spirit Cup Winner.

The Spirit Cup went to the group that showed superior warrior skills throughout the entire year. Groups earned points for the award at events such as bowling, tug of war and swimming.

Lt. Col. Paul Braunbeck, 437 AW director of staff and YOWS committee chairman, said YOWS was designed to remind Team Charleston that they are warriors.

"YOWS is another demonstration of (what happens) when Charleston AFB gets together and

shows its warrior spirit," said Braunbeck. "It was a success because the entire wing was involved."

Bash echoed Braunbeck's sentiments and said the program couldn't have happened without the work of the many people throughout the wing.

After giving special thanks to the committee members, Bash announced another Team Charleston award. "Here are the results of your efforts," said Bash. "Air Mobility Command said (our YOWS program) was the best in the command."

AMC awarded Team Charleston with the Strongest Warrior Spirit Program in the entire command.

Bash stressed that even though YOWS was complete, Team Charleston must still show warrior spirit.

"What this is really about is that we are warriors day to day," said Bash. "Many of you have been deployed this last year and with the war on terrorism having no end in sight, you will continue to be warriors."



Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Senior Airman Bethann Hunt

Dropping the goods

A loadmaster from the 41st Airlift Squadron, 43rd Operations Group, Pope AFB, N.C., ensures all cargo is loaded properly for a low altitude combat airdrop. This drop was one of a multitude of firsts for Pope AFB's C-130E. This mission was also the first combat cargo delivery system airdrop using night vision goggles in Pope AFB's history.

BSC holds first meeting of school year

By AIRMAN 1st CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Base School Committee kicked off the school year Tuesday at the Charleston Club with their first meeting of the year.

The BSC is a forum for base parents to become actively involved in their children's education.

"The purpose of the BSC is to address transition issues affecting military children as they PCS from one base to another," said Senior Master Sgt. Allan Harris, BSC member. "For the past few years, the committee has been working hard to provide parents information they need, and to develop partnerships with the local school districts so that the schools clearly understand the challenges military children face."

Charleston AFB is an active member of the Military Child Education Coalition, said Harris. The MCEC is making great progress in

working transition issues for military students at the national and international levels.

Harris said in the 2002-2003 school year, the committee will further enhance the initiatives and accomplishments of the previous years.

"Committee members serve as a clearinghouse of information from a parent's perspective," said Harris. "They also inform base leadership of community-wide school issues."

An hour-long, daytime meeting once per month is all parents have to spare to be more involved in their child's education, said Harris.

"This is a great opportunity for the Air Force community to come together to support our military children," said Harris.

The next meeting will be Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Charleston Club.

For more information, call Harris at 963-2202.

FEATURE

'Light bulb' brightens the flightline

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

He's been called 'light bulb' for so long that only a handful of people know his real name. When asked, he tells them he's sure 'light bulb' is his real name.

Randy Westervelt, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Exterior Electric Shop high voltage electrician, works day and night to keep the airfield lights burning bright.

"We work with voltage that can be the difference of sudden death and slow death," said Westervelt. "Of course we have good equipment and good safety gear, but if you do something wrong, you'll either be burnt for life and disfigured or dead. So, you just make it day to day with the dangers, and get through it."

Aside from the red, blue and green lights that light up pathways, there are also strobe lights and approach lights to guide aircraft to the runways.

There are lighted signs to let the pilots know how much room they have left to stop. More lighted signs are being set up on the airfield to let pilots know where they are going.

"It doesn't look bad during the day," said Westervelt. "But at night, it's a different story. There are more than 400 lights that I have to maintain."

The lights on the airfield are connected underground and run to the Airfield Lighting Vault.

The building shows the dangers of the job, said Westervelt. Black marks run up one side of the building where a fire broke out many years ago.

Caution signs are posted on every regulator with the message 'High Voltage' to remind electricians constantly of the hazards of their job.

Westervelt

said the biggest problem for the airfield lighting is lightning.

"Any time lightning is in the area, it takes something out," said Westervelt. "Lightning can destroy the light regulators. The lightning will strike one of the lights on the airfield and will follow the circuit all the way back to the Airfield Lighting Vault."

While there are safeguards intact to prevent the regulator from blowing out, occasionally lightning still gets through. A recent lightning strike struck a regulator and fried the circuit board.

Aside from lightning, airfield lights are also prey to lawnmowers, contractors and vehicles. The lights are easily unnoticed and run over.

At night, base operations personnel drive around to find all the lights that are out, usually two-three times a night, to give Westervelt a list in the morning of which lights need to be replaced.

Westervelt said he's the main electrician on the flightline, but if he needs help, his flight is always there for him.

"If I have a circuit problem, I get someone from the shop to help," said Westervelt. "I can't find one of those problems on my own."

Westervelt has worked at Charleston AFB since 1983. His military experience doesn't end there.

"I joined the Army in 1968 during the Vietnam War," said Westervelt. "I joined at a great time, where they didn't give you a choice. It was either serve your country or go to prison. So, I decided to become a tank commander."

"I figured I had it made then. I had all this steel around me and that no one would mess with me," Westervelt said, "but that was the first thing (the enemy) wanted to take out! We also had these exhaust pipes on the tank that the enemy loved to put missiles in. I just kept thinking, I did something stupid here."

After leaving the military, Westervelt came



Randy Westervelt, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, turns on a regulator to test flightline lights that are connected to it.



Randy Westervelt, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, replaces a light bulb on the flightline.

to work with a propane gas company in Charleston who worked with South Carolina Electric and Gas.

After a district manager of SCE&G noticed his work ethic, Westervelt was asked if he wanted a job as a lineman.

"The manager said there were 60 people ahead of me, but if I wanted the job I could have it," said Westervelt. "It's hard work and long hours. For example, when there's a storm, the poor linemen are out trying to fix lights."

Westervelt said he sometimes wondered how he got into the high voltage career field, but still enjoys his job because it's something different every day.

"When I go to work, I know I don't have a boring desk job with lots of paperwork ahead of me," said Westervelt. "When I go into base operations in the morning, I don't know what my day is going to be. It can be a good day or a very bad day."

NEWS

Charleston AFB receives 44th C-17 Globemaster III Tuesday

STORY AND PHOTO BY LT. COL. ED MEMI
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It is not every day that a seasoned pilot gets excited about an aircraft, but that's exactly the reaction Brig. Gen. Mark Volcheff, deputy director of Plans and Programs at Air Mobility



A new Block 13 version of the C-17 Globemaster III was delivered to Charleston AFB on Tuesday.

Command, Scott AFB, Ill., had upon delivering a brand new C-17 here Tuesday.

Volcheff, who has more than 5,000 hours in the C-130 and C-141, toured the Boeing production line at Long Beach, Calif., and flew the C-17 for the first time in his career. He couldn't say enough good things about the capabilities of the aircraft.

The new aircraft, a Block 13 version, contains a slate of improvements to the on-board computer systems, to include a Terrain Awareness Warning System, which maps terrain, allowing pilots to avoid obstacles.

"I've flown the C-130, C-141, KC-135 and the C-5, and this aircraft by far has the greatest capability," said Volcheff upon arrival.

Volcheff, who was assigned to Ramstein AB, Germany, is no stranger to the C-17. He oversaw operations for U.S. Forces in Europe that helped airdrop food packets to the Afghans.

Volcheff said flying the C-17 was easy.

"The biggest adjustment to flying the C-17 is, when landing, adjusting to the assisted lift with the engines," he said. "You are flying behind the

power curve and it is kind of backwards from what you are used to doing with other aircraft.

"I can see that pilots of today, especially the young ones, can easily adjust to the heads up display, and all those other things, and use them to their advantage to bring the capability of this plane to bear with short-field and tactical landings," continued Volcheff.

While touring the Boeing plant, Volcheff was impressed with the motivation of Boeing employees to put out a good product, even if it meant bringing automation to the process and eliminating some jobs.

"Anybody who sees this plane fly or in the news, you can be proud that this plane is serving America very well," said Volcheff. "This is corporate America's contribution to the war on terrorism. Of course, our aircrews are making their own impact. What a great joint team!"

This C-17 delivery was the fourth Block 13 version and the 44th aircraft to be delivered here. Ninety-one C-17s have been delivered to the Air Force.

ANTHRAX

continued from page 1

logical weapon. The program was pared down several times in the intervening years as the sole provider of the vaccine shut down its factory for renovations.

Vaccine shortages eventually caused the DOD to vaccinate only limited numbers of servicemembers serving in "designated special mission units."

The contractor, Biopart of Lansing, Mich., gained FDA approval of its renovated facility in January and is now ready to begin providing additional stocks of the vaccine to the DOD.

Winkenwerder said the new policy is "more targeted" than the previous plan to vaccinate the total force. He said the numbers of servicemembers and essential civilians vaccinated will jump, but he would not say how high. Nor would he say what areas of the world are considered "higher threat."

"We will identify those areas to the servicemembers before they are deployed to those areas, but we don't intend to talk publicly about that as we describe the policy to the rest of the country, to the media," Winkenwerder said during an earlier interview with American Forces Press Service. "And the reason is,

we don't intend to give our adversaries an indication of exactly who and when and where we've immunized people. We would like that to be a further deterrent to anybody who might think about using anthrax as a weapon."

Under the previous program, 525,000 servicemembers received a total of 2.1 million doses of the vaccine. Contrary to widespread media reports of servicemembers refusing to be vaccinated, even at the cost of their careers, Winkenwerder said the true number is relatively small compared to the number of doses administered. The DOD has no formal method of counting refusals, but service chiefs report 441 servicemembers have refused to be vaccinated. He said there have been no deaths linked to the vaccine.

Even though it is scaled back, the vaccination program will remain mandatory for troops in areas covered by the policy. Winkenwerder said this is no different from any number of other vaccines and "medical interventions" that are mandatory for military people based on where they are serving.

Learn more about the anthrax vaccine at www.anthrax.osd.mil. (Airman 1st Class Amy Perry also contributed to this article.)

What is anthrax?

There are three forms of anthrax: cutaneous, gastrointestinal and inhalational. Untreated, these forms can all result in death.

Capt. David Newman, 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron Public Health Flight chief, said inhalation anthrax is what is ex-

pected on the battlefield.

"Inhalation anthrax is the deadliest and most likely will be the form that's used as a bio weapon," said Newman. "Studies have shown that the anthrax vaccine guards against all three forms."

Inhalational anthrax

■ Inhalational anthrax can occur when inhaling as few as 5,000-6,000 anthrax spores – perhaps in a single deep breath

■ Initial symptoms may develop in one-six days, and resemble the common cold or flu: sore throat, mild fever, muscle aches and tiredness

■ Mild symptoms can progress very rapidly after a few days to severe breathing problems and shock – if left untreated, death rate exceeds 99 percent

Cutaneous anthrax

■ Cutaneous anthrax can occur when bacteria enter a break in the skin

■ Cutaneous anthrax, the most common naturally occurring types, comes from handling contaminated animal product, such as meat, wool or hides

■ This form of anthrax begins as a small bump, progresses to a larger blister in 1-2 days, followed by a black scab called an eschar

Gastrointestinal anthrax

■ Gastrointestinal, or stomach, anthrax can occur when eating raw or undercooked contaminated meat

■ Initial signs are nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting and fever – followed by severe abdominal pain, vomiting blood and severe diarrhea

(Information taken directly from www.anthrax.mil)

When management fails, primary mission suffers

By Lt Col. Daniel Flynn
437 MDSS COMMANDER

Recently, my wife and I had dinner at a local restaurant and experienced terrible service. Our glasses never stayed filled, our side order was wrong, and we could never get the waiter's attention because he seemed overwhelmed and unsure of how to manage four tables. When I did get his attention, I stated politely, but firmly, that his service was less than acceptable and if he expected to receive a tip, he needed to step up his level of service. As I suspected, he not only became more distraught, but stated that he was new and will try harder ... but try as he might, our food came out late and cold. At this point, I asked to see the manager, as a deepened sense of fear came over the waiter's face. You've seen it, the face goes white, the hands start shaking, it becomes difficult to use the English language properly and the stomach begins to churn.

The manager came over, and immediately offered us a free dessert without giving us the opportunity to discuss the real issue of poor service. He smiled, knowing that a piece of cheesecake would surely be enough to make up for all that went wrong and send us away happy customers. So what would you say and do in this situation? Would the free dessert be enough to satisfy the two hours of unacceptable performance and service? Who is responsible, and why did it occur?

Here is how I see it – I blame the manager because he failed the waiter, failed to address the issue, failed to fix the problem and more importantly, failed the organization's primary mission of service.

We face the same dilemma in our Air Force. Somewhere along the line, we lost some of our character as an institution. We have allowed mediocrity to slip into our culture and become acceptable. We often fail to find the time to address the tough issues.

How many times have we received a "problem airman" from another flight or wing because the supervisor was too lazy or too busy to provide proper training, set the example for uniform wear, clearly explain the

standards of conduct, set mission expectations, apply the right use of discipline when standards weren't met and hold themselves and their people accountable? We are using too many of these excuses as a substitute for leadership. Have you looked the other way when a member was not wearing their uniform properly, running for shelter to avoid saluting during the playing of the national anthem, addressing officers and senior NCOs with "yeah," or finishing the job yourself because it was easier and faster?

When did enforcing and adhering to the basics go away?

We need more mentoring; the type of mentoring that reinforces the basics of character and accountability. Our chief of staff, Gen. John Jumper, describes it this way: "The character we seek to define is the fire of conscience that burns within us and superintends our conduct over a lifetime ... manifestations that attend the character of those able to transcend preoccupation with self – that virtue within us all which elevates the human spirit, compels us to reach beyond our meager selves – commands us to seek more – to attach our spirit to something bigger than we are."

I'm sure I will be labeled as "old school" or "brown-shoe," but if demanding people to have high character and held responsible and accountable for their actions, then I proudly welcome the label. Mentoring means having the courage to do the right thing at whatever cost; to speak the truth – looking all airmen, regardless of rank, in the eye, and firmly and fairly identifying and correcting unacceptable standards of conduct and performance, no matter how unpopular or insignificant; to accept accountability for mistakes and pass on rewards for accomplishments; and display leadership by holding yourself and others to the highest standards; and not using excuses as a substitute for leadership.

We hold the keys to reviving the character I believe we might be losing as an institution. So, let us renew our determination to get it back and hold onto it dearly because it is a cornerstone of our future success; and more importantly, we owe it to the lifeblood of our nation – our airmen – our future leaders.

ATWIND winner awarded \$500

Around The World In Ninety Days came to an end Aug. 31, and Team Charleston claimed one grand prize.

Master Sgt. Charles Luetngen, 437th Medical Support Squadron, won \$500 by playing the ATWIND game.

Luetngen is seen here receiving a "huge check" from Laura Abell, 437th Services Squadron marketing chief and Maj. Brian Hubbard, 437 MDSS.

Team Charleston played almost 50,000 game pieces this year. There were 453 instant winners for the base, who received ATWIND T-shirts, gift certificates and more.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Phone: 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: Saturday - 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Weekdays - 11:30 a.m. Mass. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex.

Protestant Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Bldg. 217 (old Chapel).

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader, David Sirull, at 571-3264.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Master of Disguise" – Dana Carvey

Pistachio Disguisey is an Italian writer who discovers he possesses Energico, a spiritual energy that allows him to transform into anything from cherry pie to Robert Shaw. **(PG) 67 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Austin Powers in Goldmember" – Mike Myers

Dr. Evil and Goldmember hatch a time-traveling scheme to take over the world. As Austin Powers chases these villains through time, he joins forces with an old flame. Together, they must find a way to stop Dr. Evil and Goldmember from their mayhem. **(PG-13) 123 minutes**

Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

"The Adventures of Pluto Nash" – Eddie Murphy

Pluto Nash, owner of a nightclub on the moon in 2087, finds himself in hot water when he refuses to sell his club. He also has to deal with an evil clone of himself, his robot sidekick and his gun-toting mother. **(PG-13) 96 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS



Master makes AF softball team

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Men's Softball Team brought home the gold this year with help from their shortstop, a member of Team Charleston.

Master Sgt. Joel Obman, 437th Communications Squadron Mission Systems Flight chief of airfield communication maintenance, traveled with the team to the All-Military, Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament for the fifth time.

An Iowa native, Obman has been playing for the Air Force for seven years, and this year was his first time back in three years.

"This was the funnest year I've had," said Obman. "You meet a lot of new and different people throughout the world and make friends for life."

The championship, hosted by Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., ended Aug. 24 after three days of hard hitting and tough defense.

"It all came down to the last game," said Obman. "If we beat the Marines,

we'd win it all, but if we lost, then we would have finished third."

The Air Force lost the opening game to the Navy, 23-16, followed by a 20-12 loss to the Army.

It didn't take long for the Air Force to come from behind and beat the Marine Corps Team in the eighth inning of the final game, 36-35, taking home the gold.

Selected for the Armed Forces Men's Softball Team, the 6-foot tall shortstop went on to play at the Amateur Softball Association's major level National Tournament in Johnson City, Tenn., Aug. 30 - Sept. 2.

"The great part is you get to represent your service," said Obman. "Not many people get a chance to do that, and that's pretty special."

Obman said he wouldn't have had the opportunity to play on the team without a lot of help from the other members of his flight. Because the Missions System Flight picked up the extra workload, Obman was able to represent all members of Team Charleston in the tournament.

Texans dazzle Dallas with lack of talent

BY THE SWAMI
PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

"Ha, ha and ha," said the Swami as he watched an expansion team pound the Dallas Cowboys in the first game of the year.

The Houston Texans, in their first game ever, manhandled the Cowgirls before a national TV audience. The Cowboys' offense, defense and special teams all stunk.

Travis Anderson, a long-time Swami wannabe, was forced to seek professional counseling after watching his Cowgirls get massacred. Before the game, Anderson was heard saying, "There's no way they (Cowboys) can lose this game. They're playing an expansion team. I could get out there and beat the Texans by myself."

If Anderson can beat the Texans by himself,

and Dallas lost to the Texans, doesn't logic dictate that Anderson should find himself a new team to root for? The Swami knows the answer to this question. However, he feels bad for Anderson, so he will make him a deal. If Anderson will write a formal apology for liking the Cowboys, denounce them in the Swami's column and donate all his Cowboy clothing to charity, then the Swami will give Anderson a gift certificate for free french fries at McDonalds. This is a good deal!

Since the Swami won big in Vegas on the Texans, he really didn't worry about the outcome of some of the other games. However, the Swami did take the time to watch all the highlights, and he can't help but think about the end of the Browns and

Chiefs game. What was Dwayne Rudd thinking? All of a sudden, his little victory dance doesn't look so cool, does it?

Speaking of the Steelers, the Swami would like to apologize to anyone who stayed up to watch the Monday night game. If you read last week's paper, you'll see the Swami predicted Kordell Stewart would choke. If Kordell has any self-respect, he'll quit the team immediately and move to that deserted island he does Direct TV commercials from.

The Swami has more important things to do than write for all of you. Besides, the Swami has to get ready to hold "Swami Camp." It's a program much like Yoda held for Jedi knights, except Swami Camp is much more powerful and much harder to get into.

Week Three

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____

Sunday, Sept. 22

New Orleans @ **Chicago**
Indianapolis @ Houston
New York Jets @ Miami
Carolina Panthers @ **Minnesota**
Kansas City @ **New England**
Dallas @ **Philadelphia**
Cleveland @ **Tennessee**
San Diego @ **Arizona**
Buffalo @ **Denver**
Green Bay @ Detroit
Seattle @ **New York Giants**
Washington @ San Francisco
Cincinnati @ **Atlanta**

Monday, Sept. 23

St Louis @ Tampa Bay

Monday night total points: _____
Swami's Monday night points: **64**

Swami's picks are in bold and italics.
Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil
Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.
****Picks must be submitted by Friday, Sept. 20, 4 p.m.****